

Message Text

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13

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /088 W

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O R 121111Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1000

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GW, XT

SUBJECT: FRG MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY'S REMARKS
BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL WIVES

REF: STATE 48943

1. TUESDAY PAPERS CLOSED TOO EARLY TO PICK UP ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS. DPA FILED REPORT AROUND MIDNIGHT, MARCH 11, AND RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT IN COURSE OF DAY MARCH 12.

2. TEXT OF DPA DISPATCH AS FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT:

ACCORDING TO SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, THE U.S. HAS NO OBJECTION TO AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN POLICY, BUT IS OPPOSED TO A POLICY OF FUNDAMENTAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE U.S.

IN A TALK BEFORE WIVES OF MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, KISSINGER ALSO WARNED THE EUROPEANS ON MONDAY EVENING
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IN WASHINGTON AGAINST TAKING AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE

U.S. DETERMINED BY COMPETITIVE THINKING. IF SUCH A COMPETITION DEVELOPS, THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, WE WILL BE THE VICTORS BECAUSE WE HAVE VASTLY MORE RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL.

KISSINGER'S TALK TO THE CONGRESSIONAL WIVES HAD FIRST BEEN DESCRIBED AS PRIVATE, BUT WAS MADE PUBLIC BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AFTER IT BECAME KNOWN THAT A JOURNALIST HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

IN RECENT DAYS, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD REACTED WITH UNCONCEALED ANNOYANCE OVER THE FACT THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAD OFFERED COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION TO THE ARAB STATES WITHOUT, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON'S VERSION, HAVING CONSULTED WASHINGTON BEFOREHAND.

KISSINGER EMPHASIZED THAT THE OIL CRISIS IS EQUALLY A PROBLEM FOR ALL INDUSTRIAL STATES BUT THAT THE U.S. IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

THE QUESTION WE ARE FACED WITH, SAID KISSINGER, IS WHETHER THE COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN WORLD AND JAPAN, CONFRONTED BY AN ABSOLUTELY PREDICTABLE DANGER, CAN PROCEED TOGETHER, OR WHETHER THEY WILL BEHAVE THE WAY THE GREEK CITY-STATES DID IN THE FACE OF MACEDONIA AND ROME, FRAGMENTING THEMSELVES THROUGH COMPETITION IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION FOR WHICH COMPETITION OFFERS NO SOLUTION. FOR THE WEST, THIS IS BOTH A MORAL AND A POLITICAL PROBLEM.

REFERRING TO THE EUROPEAN OFFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ARABS, WHICH WAS THE BASIS OF A LETTER WRITTEN LAST WEEK BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT, KISSINGER SAID: THE U.S. HAS NO OBJECTION TO AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN POLICY. HOWEVER, WE DO OBJECT WHEN THIS INDEPENDENCE TAKES THE FORM OF FUNDAMENTAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS THE U.S. WE OBJECT WHEN THE EUROPEANS, IN A CRISIS WHICH CAN ONLY BE DEALT WITH JOINTLY, DELIBER-

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ATELY ADOPT A COMPETITIVE ATTITUDE.

KISSINGER EMPHASIZED: I REPEAT THAT, IF IT COMES TO SUCH A COMPETITION, WE WILL WIN IT BECAUSE WE HAVE VASTLY MORE RESOURCES AT OUR DISPOSAL.

KISSINGER SADDLED THE EUROPEANS AT LEAST IN PART WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS HAD TO

CARRY ON ITS PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF EXTREME HOSTILITY.

(HE SAID THAT) THE U.S. ALONE HAD STOOD BEHIND ISRAEL DURING THE MOST RECENT NEAR EASTERN CRISIS, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION, EUROPE, JAPAN, AND THE ARABS HAD ALL BEEN

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13-10
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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

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O R 121111Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1001
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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ON ONE SIDE.

TAKING A LOOK BACK AT EUROPEAN HISTORY IN A MANNER WHICH WAS EQUALLY UNUSUAL IN ITS TONE AND IN ITS SUBJECT MATTER, THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID: EUROPE HAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM WORLD WAR I. THIS IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL DEVASTATION, WHICH WAS BAD ENOUGH, BUT BECAUSE THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, AFTER A CENTURY OF BELIEF IN UNHINDERED PROGRESS, LET LOOSE A CATASTROPHE WHICH CLAIMED TEN MILLION DEAD AND THEREAFTER NEVER AGAIN COMPLETELY WON BACK THE CONFIDENCE OF THEIR

CITIZENS.

WHAT IS EXTRAORDINARILY ASTONISHING, KISSINGER
CONTINUED, IS THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE EUROPEAN LEADERS
ON JULY 1, 1914 HAD EVEN A VAGUE IDEA THAT THIRTY DAYS
LATER THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE INVOLVED IN
A WAR WHICH WOULD PUT AN END TO THEIR CIVILIZATION AS
THEY HAD KNOWN IT. INDEED, THEY WERE ALL ON VACATION AT
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THE TIME BECAUSE THEY DID NOT THINK IT WAS A SERIOUS
CRISIS. FOUR WEEKS LATER THEY HAD A FULL SCALE WAR.

KISSINGER ADDED THAT THE RESULT OF THE LOSS OF CONFIDENCE
WHICH FOLLOWED IN THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC WAS THAT THERE
HAD VERY RARELY BEEN COMPLETELY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS
IN ANY EUROPEAN COUNTRY SINCE THAT TIME. THIS WAS THE
MOST PROFOUND PROBLEM IN TODAY'S EUROPE. END TEXT.

3. WE WILL REPORT ON NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE
SECRETARY'S REMARKS ASAP, PRESUMABLY BEGINNING WITH
MARCH 13 PAPERS.

4. MARCH 12 PAPERS CARRY BROAD COVERAGE OF BRANDT'S REPORTED
REPLY TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S LETTER. ACCORDING TO THESE
ACCOUNTS, BRANDT URGED THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE POSSIBLE
AN EARLY RETURN TO TALKS ON A JOINT U.S.-EC DECLARATION,
AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN
THESE TALKS TO AGREE ON CONSULTATION PROCEDURES THAT
WOULD GUARANTEE REGULAR AND CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN THE EC
AND THE U.S. REPORTS ALSO NOTE THAT BRANDT, IN HIS
CAPACITY AS EC PRESIDENT, INVITED THE PRESIDENT TO COME
TO EUROPE IN APRIL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROMULGATION OF
THE DECLARATIONS ON U.S.-EC COOPERATION AND ON THE
FUTURE TASKS OF NATO.
HILLENBRAND

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